

Rule of Life: Patience

July 16, 2022



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Background: James is speaking to people who are scattered, overworked, and looked down on.

He is challenging an established CULTURE.

JAMES let's both groups know that there will be an END to their present circumstance.

“And a final word to you arrogant rich: Take some lessons in lament. You’ll need buckets for the tears when the crash comes upon you. Your money is corrupt and your fine clothes stink. Your greedy luxuries are a cancer in your gut, destroying your life from within. You thought you were piling up wealth. What you’ve piled up is Judgment.”

All the workers you've exploited and cheated cry out for judgment. The groans of the workers you used and abused are a roar in the ears of the Master Avenger. You've looted the earth and lived it up. But all you'll have to show for it is a fatter than usual corpse. In fact, what you've done is condemn and murder perfectly good persons, who stand there and take it."

—James 5:1-6 MSG

Key Question: How do we respond to Culture?

"Meanwhile, friends, wait patiently for the Master's Arrival. You see farmers do this all the time, waiting for their valuable crops to mature, patiently letting the rain do its slow but sure work. Be patient like that. Stay steady and strong. The Master could arrive at any time."

—James 5:7-8 MSG

Take your own notes here:

PATIENCE: tolerating delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset

"Teach us, O Lord, the disciplines of patience, for to wait is often harder than work."

—Peter Marshall, Chaplain, U.S. Senate

Patience is a TIME thing.

We don't control God, elements, or markets. We only control OURSELVES.

Friends, don't complain about each other. A far greater complaint could be lodged against you, you know. The Judge is standing just around the corner.

—James 5:9 MSG

Take the old prophets as your mentors. They put up with anything, went through everything, and never once quit, all the time honoring God. What a gift life is to those who stay the course! You've heard, of course, of Job's staying power, and you know how God brought it all together for him at the end. That's because God cares, cares right down to the last detail.

—James 5:10-11 MSG

Take your own notes here:

PERSEVERANCE: continuing with something even though it is difficult.

When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired Servants.' So he got up and went to his father. 'But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him'.

—Luke 15:17-20 MSG

GOD, OUR FATHER, is the greatest example of PATIENCE.

He Builds CAPACITY for PATIENCE into us.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some

understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

—2 Peter 3:9 MSG